

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01331 091615Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-01

AID-05 /074 W

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O P 091541Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 886

DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

OSAF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFAE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WPAFB OH/YP

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJ: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

REF: A. BRUSSELS 4082 B. COPENHAGEN 1302

1. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS OUR BEST JUDGMENT OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF PLAY IN REGARD TO THE FIGHTERPLANE
REPLACEMENT, SUPPLEMENTING THE INFORMATION IN REF B.
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PAGE 02 COPENH 01331 091615Z

2. RE EXTENSION OF PRESENT MAY 15 DEADLINE, WE
UNDERSTAND THAT AN EXTENSION HAS BEEN GRANTED UNTIL
MAY 30 OR JUNE 2.

3. BEFORE DENMARK CAN COMMIT ITSELF TO PURCHASE A
REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT (A) THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE A
FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO PARLIAMENT; AND (B) PARLIAMENT
MUST GRANT APPROVAL. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER
TECHNICALITIES WHICH WOULD PREVENT THE SPEEDY SIGNING,
AFTER THIS APPROVAL, OR THE MOU AND LETTER OF INTENT.

4. BASICALLY, THE DANISH POSITION REMAINS THAT THE
GOVERNMENT PREFERS THE F-16. THIS WAS STATED MOST
RECENTLY ON MAY 5 BY THE PRIME MINSTER AND THE DEFENSE
MINISTER. SINCE THE US OFFER IS BASED ONTHE CONDITION
THAT ALL FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUY THE SAME AIRCRAFT,
THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IT
CANNOT MAKE A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION UNTIL IT IS SURE
THAT THE CONSORTIUM HOLDS TOGETHER. IN OTHER WORDS,
THE DANES MUST BE SURE THAT THE BELGIANS AND THE DUTCH
WILL ALSO BUY THE F-16.

5. THERE APPEARS TO BE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN
FAVOR OF AN F-16 PURCHASE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT YET
CLEAR HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL FINALLY TACKLE THE
PROBLEM POSED BY THE RADICALS WHO, WHILE INTEGRAL
PARTNERS IN THE 1973-1977 DEFENSE AGREEMTN, REMAIN
OPPOSED TO THE PURCHASE OF ANY PLANE AT THIS TIME.
THE ANSWER TURNS ON A COMPLEX SET OF FACTORS INVOLVING
JUDGEMENTS OF TIMING NEGOTIATIONS ON A POST-1977 DEFENSE
AGREEMENT AND THE EFFECT OF A PURCHASE DECISION NOW ON
CONTINUED RADICAL ADHERENCE TO THE PRESENT RPT PRESENT
AGREEMENT. DANISH PROONENTS OF THE F-16
HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT THAT, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, THE
GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FINESSE THE RADICAL
OPPOSITION TO THE PURCHASE.

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